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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO NORTH CREEK ROAD OVER NEXT 150 DAYS

Natural Bridge Station, Va. – The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be improving North Creek Road, Forest Development Road (FDR 59), in Botetourt County beginning July 26, 2010. During the improvements, access to North Creek Campground, the lower Apple Orchard Falls trail head and access to hunting and fishing along NorthCreek Road will be restricted at varying times.

"Over the next 150 days we will replace numerous culverts, repair ditch lines and pave the road," said District Ranger Annie Downing. "This work will minimize erosion to protect water quality in North Creek, improve the driving surface for visitors and improve drainage during storm events."

Three sections of North Creek Road will be closed at different times during the project. Beginning July 26 the section from Jennings Creek Road (SR 614), to North Creek Campground will be closed. The other two sections include North Creek Campground to Thomas Mountain Road (FDR 768) and Thomas Mountain Road (FDR 768) to the end of North Creek Road (FDR 59) that access the lower Apple Orchard Falls trail head.

"The sectioning of road work into three sections allows continuous access to North Creek Campground and maintains access to the lower Apple Orchard trail head during most of the work," added Downing.

Alternative routes to the campground and trail are available during the closures. The upper and middle trail heads for Apple Orchard Fall Trail are unaffected. Visitors are encouraged to contact the Glenwood-Pedlar Ranger District at 540-291-5188 prior to their trip to get the most current information.